



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

media release

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Holiday Season 2012

Franklin County Children Services Holiday Wish Brings Hope to More Than 5,000 Children

As holiday tunes start playing on the radio, many children eagerly anticipate the coming season. But for some children, the holidays are not so festive. Many of these children are unable to spend the holidays with their families or live in homes that are sometimes void of the joy and laughter that many associate with their childhoods and the holidays.

More than 5,000 children under the care of Franklin County Children Services may receive no gifts this holiday season without the help of the community. For almost 50 years, Franklin County Children Services has asked the community to help grant the holiday wishes of children through the agency's Holiday Wish program. Year after year thousands of individuals, businesses, churches, and civic groups have come forward to help.

For many youth a donation from Holiday Wish is the only time all year that they will receive a new toy of their very own. They live with their parents, relatives, in foster care or in residential care. Without the help of the community, there is no guarantee these children will experience the true spirit of giving and receiving.

Holiday Wish is a unique gift-giving program because there are several options available to donors to help each child's wish come true. Donors make wishes come true by sponsoring individual children, making monetary donations, or by donating new toys.

The process begins with a wish for a specific gift. The child's wish (a gift valued at \$40) comes true through the generosity of a donor who shops for the gift and delivers it to Children Services. Monetary donations are needed for youth 12 through 18 who receive only gift cards. New toy donations of any kind are also in great demand.

All donations to Holiday Wish may be tax deductible. Donations are accepted online at www.franklincountyohio.gov/fccsholidaywish. Holiday Wish progress can be followed on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube. Find out how you can help children enjoy the holiday season.

Call Holiday Wish at (614) 275-2525 or email holidaywish@fccs.co.franklin.oh.us.